

as assistant staff judge advocate at Keesler Air Force Base, MS. He then served with the Peace Corps, first in the Office of General Counsel, where he served as the deputy general counsel, and then as the Peace Corps country director in Korea. Ed also worked at the Mental Health Law Project here in Washington, an experience that gave him significant expertise on mental health issues which he has brought to bear on any number of VA mental health matters.

Mr. President, I am certain that all in the Senate who have had the privilege of knowing and working with Ed Scott join me in wishing him well as he retires from a distinguished career of Government service. We will be the poorer for his going, but the richer for his having worked among us.●

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Emergency Medical Services Week and the heroic and courageous work our emergency medical service providers perform everyday.

As an author of the Emergency Medical Services Efficiency Act, I have had the opportunity to meet with many EMS providers both in Minnesota and Washington to hear firsthand the problems they face every day—and their suggestions on how those problems can be resolved. The meetings were constructive, and we identified specific areas of concern and ways in which Congress can address them. I hope that the Emergency Medical Services Efficiency Act will serve as a blueprint for helping these dedicated public servants make the system more efficient.

Mr. President, emergency medical services have come a long way since the 1860's when the first civilian ambulance service was begun in Cincinnati and New York City. Now we have sophisticated medical equipment on ambulances around the country, and the American people have come to rely on the readiness, efficiency, and quick response of the EMS system. Yet many Americans—including Members of Congress—take these crucial services for granted.

Mr. President, I have a great admiration and respect for those who dedicate their time and talents to the emergency care profession, whether as a career or through volunteering. It's a field that offers a great many rewards. And yet along with those rewards often come great challenges. EMS professionals are often thrust into dangerous situations—situations that set their profession apart from most any other 9-to-5 job. It's a difficult, sometimes terrifying time to be part of the public health and safety professions.

I'm reminded of a frightening example of the terrors EMS professionals face that happened here in Washington just 5 months ago when a paramedic team was attacked by a gunman.

Emergency workers were transporting a shooting victim to the hospital when the gunman stormed the ambulance, killing the victim and wounding one of the paramedics. That followed another violent incident just a month earlier, when a man who had been shot was stalked by his attacker to the hospital and was fatally wounded as he sought treatment.

Despite these risks, there are many thousands of Americans who serve their communities with determination and compassion as paramedics and emergency medical service personnel. Last night, they honored those who exemplify the best of their profession as "Stars of Life." I was asked to speak to their group, but was unable to attend due to the Budget Committee's markup of the fiscal year 1998 budget resolution. I was disappointed I could not attend so I wanted to take the time to recognize their achievements on the Senate floor today.

Mr. President, at this time I ask that the names of this year's "Stars of Life" be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Far too often, Washington fails to respond to pressing concerns until they become a crisis. We cannot wait for a crisis to occur before we respond to the needs of our emergency medical system.

It's ironic that we expect so much from our EMS providers and yet, when they seek assistance, we continue to ignore their 9-1-1 call for help. In recognizing and celebrating National EMS Week, we should all take the time to congratulate the "Stars of Life," and their colleagues, who receive no special recognition and yet answer every call, every day, because they have chosen to serve.

The names follow:

STARS OF LIFE RECIPIENTS 1997

Irene Acquisto, NY.
Mike (Dewey) Albritton, MS.
Josh Alger, MI.
Thomas Anderson, CT.
Jim Bard, OR.
Robert Barmore, KY.
Sue Beals, ME.
Trish Beckwith, NV.
Walter Bedward, NJ.
Jeffrey Blank, WA.
Charles Blattner, CA.
Andy Bowersox, IN.
Terry Bracy, AR.
Ken Bradford, CA.
Tim Braithwaite, SD.
Bernie Callahan, PA.
Marty Carlson, OR.
Bryan Clark, GA.
Mike Coburn, NV.
Keith Cooper, PA.
David Curran, RI.
Virginia Davis, CA.
Vito DePietro, PA.
Jeffrey DeVine, MA.
George Drum, AZ.
Dave Elle, OR.
David Ellis, MO.
Linda Emery, OH.
Clarence Ervin, MI.
Ramona Fincher, LA.
Wayne Gilbert, MA.
Tom Gottschalk, MI.
Dave Green, NY.
Robert Gregory, CT.
Julian Guerrero, TX.
Marlene Guillory, LA.
David Hahn, IL.
Paul Haynie, CA.
Margaret Heckmann, IL.
Leigh Hennig, NY.
Victor Hoffer, OR.
Lynda Hoffman, NY.
Gregory Hogan, MA.
Dennis Hogges, GA.
Sharon Houghton, MO.
Shane Husted, MI.
Christopher Imm, NY.
Brent James, NE.
Charles Jarmon, CT.
Wilson Jean, FL.
Leonard Joseph, NY.
Shelly Kaczynski, MI.
James Lanier, FL.
Tony Lee, MA.
Carl Lind, AZ.
Thomas Lindgren, MA.
William Lindsay, OK.
Alvin Lynn, VA.
Tonia Mack, MA.
Steve Madrid, AZ.
Quijuan Maloof, CA.
Michael Mangan, MD.
Kerry Mariano, PA.
Donald Marsh, MI.
Greg Martino, CO.
Vicky McClanahan, TN.
Ed (Hunter) McKeever, CO.
Chris Mixon, LA.
Edward Moser, NY.
Jim Neal, ME.
Rella Neal, ME.
Keith Overcash, NC.
Cheryl Pasquarella, MN.
Thinh Pham, LA.
Ron Piel, FL.
John Piombo, FL.
Maye Pittman, CA.
Suzanne Pluskett, CA.
Judy Rains, VA.
Richie Ray, TX.
John Rivas, FL.
Jodi Roberts, OK.
Stephen Roberts Jr., TN.
Earl Ruberts, NJ.
Todd Sadler, OH.
Orlando Segarra, FL.
Mia Shelton, NY.
Penny Shuler, GA.
Todd Sims, NC.
Randy Sizelove, IN.
Mary Sloan, GA.
Carroll Smeltzer, AR.
Brent (Michael) Smith, TX.
Robert L. Smith Jr., NC.
John Sotero, CT.
Todd Stockford, MI.
Regina Stoneham, TX.
Matt Syverson, AZ.
Steve Thurman, PA.
Linda Tracey, NY.
Kevin Waddington, CO.
Beth Wally, NC.
Greg Ware, LA.
Courtney Williamson, GA.
Kevin Winte, CA.
Bill (Ronald) Wright, DE.
Destry Young, TN.●

DEATH SENTENCES FOR SALE OF LAND

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was profoundly disturbed to learn that the Palestinian Authority has adopted a policy that any Palestinian caught selling land to a Jew will receive the death penalty. Only days after the announcement, the New York Times reported the brutal abduction and murder of Mr. Farid Bashiti, a 70-year-old